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★ NEWSLETTER

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Banff National Park, Alberta

## SUNSHINE SUMMER USE PLAN

In 1977, the lessees of Sunshine Ski Village received permission from Parks Canada's minister to expand their downhill ski operation in Banff National Park.

Permission was also given for the summer operation of the gondola, which provides easy access to the area, and the construction of related service facilities at Sunshine Village. The opportunity to walk and hike in the wide alpine meadows nearby is a major summer attraction for visitors.

Improved access and uncontrolled pedestrian use, however, has caused concern about the potential for damage to the adjacent Sunshine Meadows (an extensive and botanically-significant area of alpine tundra).



**ROCK ISLE LAKE** in Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park. Use in this area could increase significantly with operation of the Standish Chairlift.

Parks Canada, along with Sunshine Village and the B.C. Parks Division (Mount Assiniboine Provincial Parks lands could also be affected by summer use) has initiated a planning program that will help decide how summer visitors can best be accommodated without damaging this outstanding alpine landscape.

*This point needs stressing: the fundamental issue of whether summer use should occur at all is not under review; previous decisions have decided in favor of summer use!*

Four alternatives are being considered relating to using chairlifts for providing access to viewing areas. They are: 1) operate no chairlifts at all, 2) operate the Goat's Eye chairlift, 3) operate the Standish chairlift, and 4) operate both the Standish and Goat's Eye chairlifts.

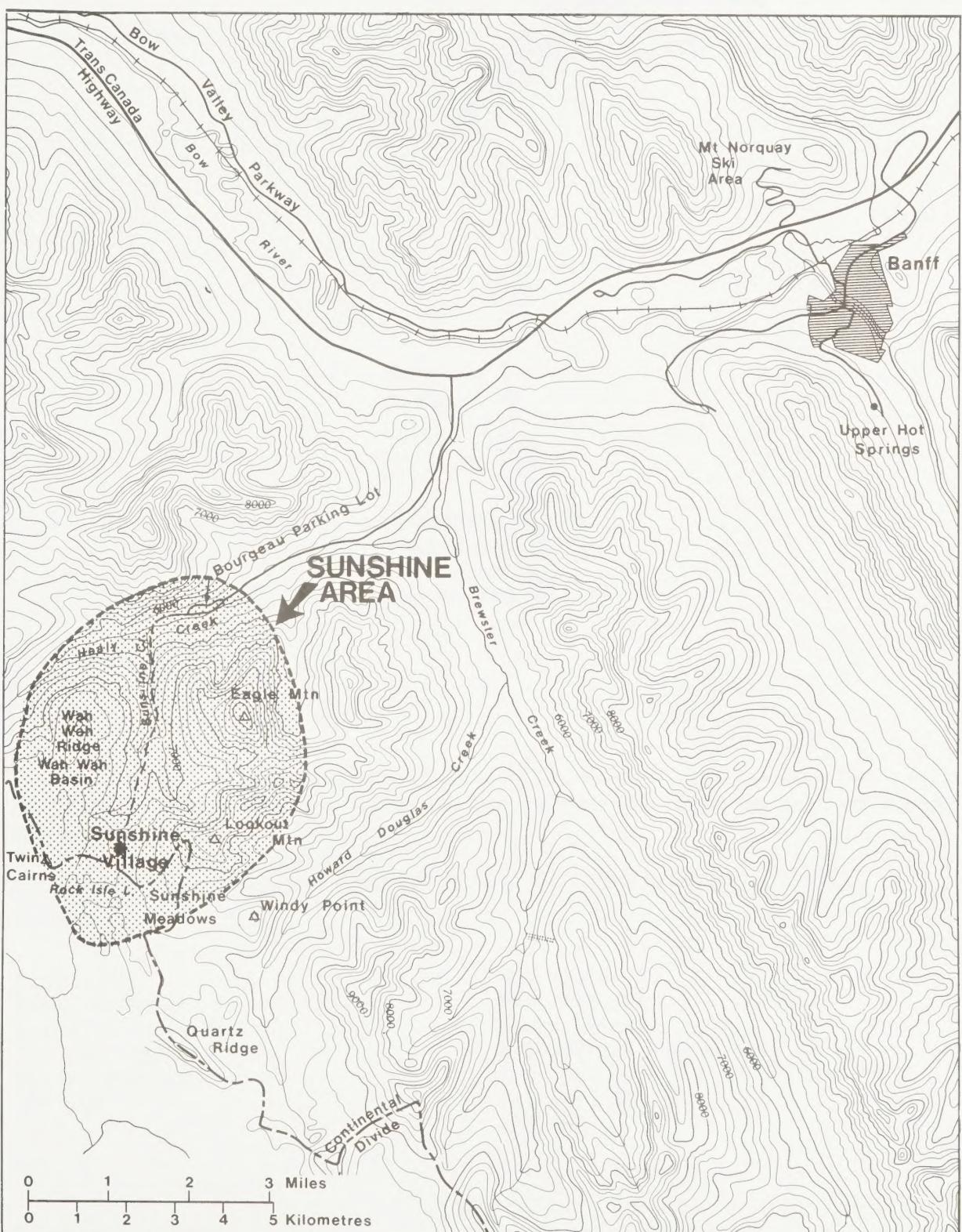


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Within the 4 alternatives, there are also options related to the degree of control placed on walking in the area (use of trail corridors, on-site guides and so forth). As well, various options for developing interpretive programs are under review.

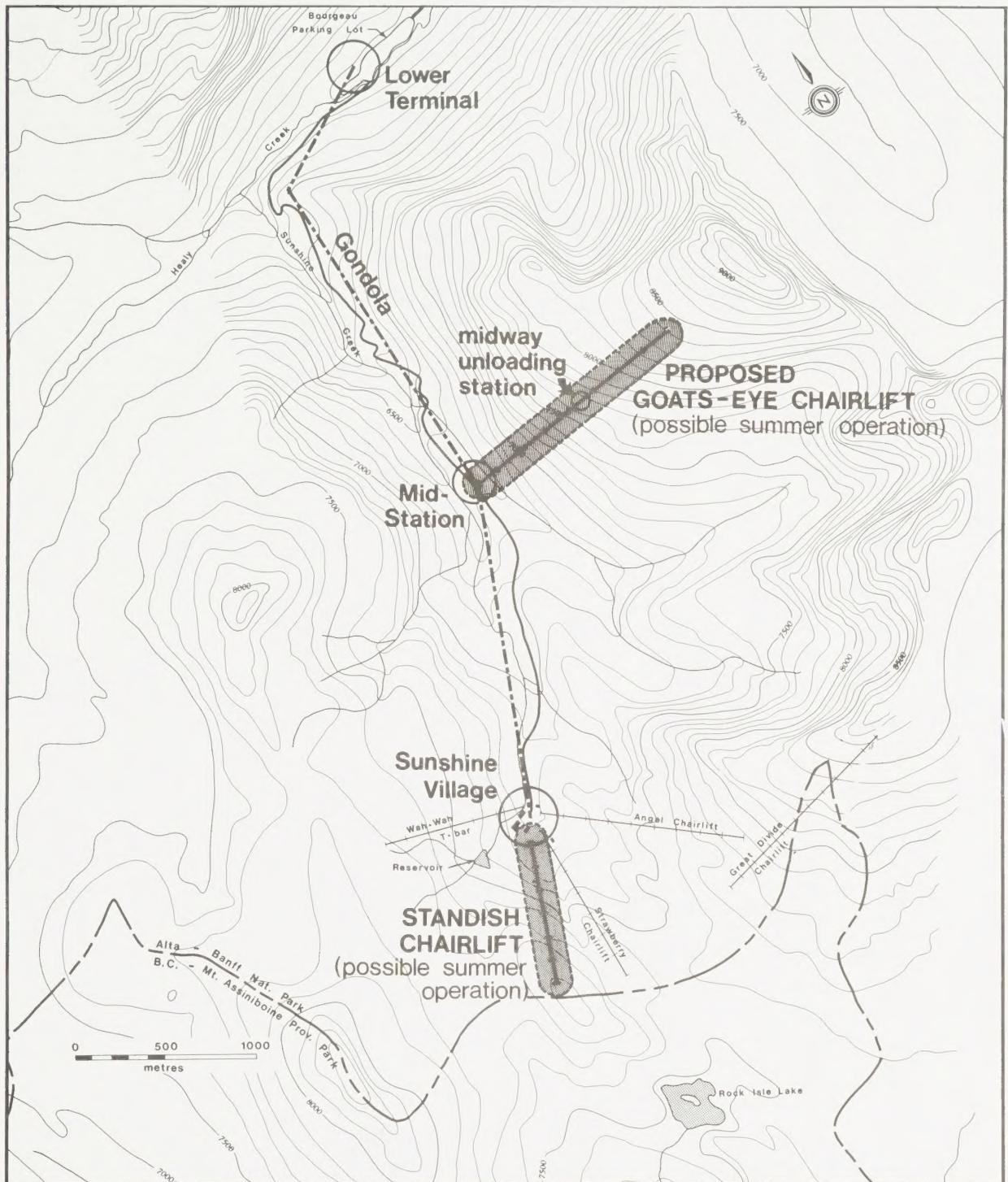
Later this spring, a public information newsletter will be published which will describe the alternatives and options being reviewed by the planning team. They will be identified and made available for your comments and suggestions. Should sufficient public interest be demonstrated, open houses and presentations to interested groups will be scheduled. Following this public review, the planning team will reassess the information gathered and a summary of the findings will



**REGIONAL SETTING:** The map shows the area of Banff National Park in which Sunshine is located.



be made available. A recommended plan will be formulated and made available for a final public review in the Fall of 1981.



**SUNSHINE AREA:** The map shows the two chairlifts that could be operated during the summer.

If you have any questions concerning this planning programme, contact either:

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